#374 WARREN COMMISSION

1/20/70

UPI-126
(JFK ASSASSINATION)
WASHINGTN --TWO MEMBERS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, SENS. RICHARD B. RUSSELL AND JOHN SHERMAN COOPER, SPLIT TODAY OVER WHETHER LEE HARVEY OSWALD ALONE PLANNED THE ASSASSINATIONOF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

THEY AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT OSWALD FIRED THE FATAL SHOTS IN ALLAS, NOV. 22,1963.

"I NEVER BELIEVED THAT HE DID IT WITHOUT ANY CONSULTATION OR ANY ENCOURAGEMENT WHATSOVER," RUSSELL SAID. "TOO MANY THINGS...CAUSED ME TO DOUBT THAT HE PLANNED IT ALL BY HIMSELF."

BUT COOPER SAID THAT AFTER ALL THE EVIDENCE WAS PRESENTED AND ALL THE HEARINGS COMPLETED, IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT OSWALD ACTED ALONE.

"AFTER ALL EFFFORTS WE COULD NEVER FIND EVIDENCE THAT ANYONE ELSE WAS INVOLVED," HE SAID.

COOPER RECALLED THAT HE JOINED WITH RUSSELL IN INSISTING ON A DISCLAIMER IN THE FINAL REPORT WHICH SAID THAT "BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY IN PROVING NEGATIVES TO A CERTAINTY THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHERS BEING INVOLVED WITH EITHER OSWALD OR (JACK) RUBY CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED CATEGORICALLY, BUT IF THERE IS ANY SUCH EVIDENCE IT HAS BEEN BEYOND THE REACH OF ALL THE INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES AND RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND HAS NOT COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS COMMISSION."

COPPER ALSO SAID HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE TESTIMONY OF MARINA OSWALD, THE ASSASSIN'S WIFE, AFTER HER APPEARANCE BEFORE THE COMMISSION. AS A RESULT, COOPER AND RUSSELL WENT TO DALLAS AND INTERROGATED MRS. OSWALD FOR ABOUT FIVE HOURS. SHE WAS REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL.

"IF HTERE WAS ANYTHING ELSE TO BE KNOWN, SHE WOULD HAVE KNOWN IT," COOPER SAID. "BUT WE FOUND NOTHING."

COOPER SAID ONE OF THE CHIEF PURPOSES OF THE INVESTIGATION WAS TO FIND OUT IF ANYONE ELSE WAS INVOLVED BUT ADDED "WE COULDN'T FIND ANYONE."

1/19--AR220PES